

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 L-03 IO-14 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 PRS-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /093 W
-----171058Z 111010 /13

R 170720Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6224

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JOHANNESBURG 1541

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT: THE CITIZEN REPORTS ON US-SA

1) THE CITIZEN, JOHANNESBURG, FRIDAY JUNE 17, 1977, UNDER THE BY-LINE AIDA PARKER CONTINUES , AS PART 5 ITS SERIES ON THE SECRET US WAR AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, AS FOLLOWS QUOTE: AMERICANS PAY DEFENCE OF TREASON OTHER TRIALISTS. TODAY THE CITIZEN DISCLOSES DETAILS OF THE MAIN FUNDING ORGANISATION BEHIND NEARLY ALL THE TREASON, TERRORIST AND SO-CALLED POLITICAL TRIALS HEARD IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1967. THIS MONEY IS NOT, AS MANY SUPPOSE, DERIVED FROM COMMUNIST SOURCES, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN OF THE ACCUSED HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN AVOWED MARXISTS. IT COMES PRIMARILY FROM THE COMPARATIVELY LITTLE KNOWN AMERICAN LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW, THROUGHS ITS AFRICA LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT. THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE WAS SET UP UNDER ONE OF THE JOHN F KENNEDY TRUSTS AND ITS AIMS ARE DEFINIED AS " FOR THE DEFENCE OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMES UNDER UNDEMOCRATIC LEGAL

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SYSTEMS", THE OBJE TS OF THE COMMITTEE'S AFRICA LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS ARE DEFINED AS " PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE OPPONENTS OF RACIAL REPRESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA WHERE RACISM TAKES ON ASTONISHING DIMENSIONS".

SOURCE

THE LAWYERS# COMMITTEE IS PERFECTLY OPEN ABOUT THE SOURCE OF

ITS AMERICAN FUNDING. ITS INCOME, IT SAYS IN VARIOUS ANNUAL AND OTHER REPORTS, IS DERIVED FROM FOUNDATIONS, LAWYERS, CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

AMONG THE MANY DONOR INSTITUTIONS LISTED ARE THE FORD FOUNDATION, THE FIELD FOUNDATION, THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK, THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION, THE ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND, THE BJB FOUNDATION AND THE NEW WORLD FOUNDATION.

A STUDY OF THESE FOUNDATIONS DISCLOSES THAT A NUMBER OF THEM FALL INTO THAT GROUP USUALLY LISTED AS AMONG THOSE HEADING AMERICA' " INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT" - POWERFUL FAMILIES, BANKS, LAWYERS AND OTHERS WHO, EVEN MORE THAN THE POLITICIANS, INFLUENCE AMERICAN DECISION-MAKING.

NO FEWER THAN 23 OF THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE OFFICE HOLDERS AND TRUSTEES ARE MEMBERS OF THE INCREDIBLY INFLUENTIAL COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

TARGETS

OF IS SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATION, THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE SAYS THIS IS LARGELY FINANCED BY THE FIELD AND FORD FOUNDATIONS, BY " LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS", AND INDIVIDUALS.

IT IS IN THE SECOND CATEGORY - " LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS" - THAT THE HIDDEN HAND OF THE CIA BEGINS TO EMERGE.

AMERICAN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS DISCLOSED IN FEBRUARY 1967 THAT MR ELI WHITNEY DEBEVOISE, WHO STILL

SERVES ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LAWYER' COMMITTEE, AND HIS PARTNER, MR FRANCIS T P PLIMPTON, BOTH OF THE LAW FIRM DEBEVOISE, PLIMPTON, LYONS AND GATES, HAD FOR YEARS BEEN ENGAGED IN FUNNELLING CIA FUNDS INTO SELECTED TARGETS.

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PRECISELY HOW MUCH MONEY THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE HAS FUNNELLED INTO SOUTH AFRICA SINCE IT FIRST BEGAN WORKING HERE, INITIALLY THROUGH LAWYER JOEL CARLSON IN 1967, IS UNKNOWN. CERTAINLY IT IS MILLIONS.

IN THE PERIOD 1967-74 THE FORD FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTED ABOUT R1,5-MILLION, WITH A FURTHER R100 000 IN 1975 AND THE SAME AMOUNT FOR THIS YEAR.

WHAT IS STRANGE IS THE DESPERATE EFFORT MADE BY THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE TO CONCEAL ITS FUNDING OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL CASES, BOTH FROM THE DEFENDANTS AND THE TRIAL LAWYERS.

IN THE RECENT BCP-SASO TRIAL, THE COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTED R100 000 TOWARDS THE DEFENCE COSTS.

THIS MONEY, I HAVE ESTABLISHED, WAS PAID THROUGH A LONDON FIRM OF SOLICITORS CALLED BENNET. I HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED BENNET'S IF THEY WOULD DISCLOSE THE NAME OF THE SPONSORS. EACH TIME THE REQUEST HAS BEEN BRUSQUELY REFUSED.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 JOHANNESBURG 1541

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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REFUSED
THE MONEY IS TRANSMITTED TO A NATAL LAWYER. HE TOO,
HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO DISCLOSE TO HIS CLIENTS THE NAME OF
THEIR SPONSOR.
ANOTHER LONDON LEGAL COMPANY HANDLING FUNDS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN
POLITICAL TRIALS IS CARRUTHERS AND CO.
SINCE 1967, IT IS HARD TO FIND A POLITICAL TRIAL IN WHICH THE
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME WAY.
IT IS ALSO EQUALLY HARD TO ESTABLISH HOW SOME OF THESE CASES
COULD BY DEFINATION COME UNDER " DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS".
HERE IS A SHORT LIST OF SOME OF THE DEFENCE CASES IN WHICH
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED:
1967: TRIAL OF 37 NAMIBIANS, CHARGED UNDER THE TERRORIST ACT.
SOME OF THESE MEN HAD BEEN TRAINED IN TERRORIST WARFARE
OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA, SOME INSIDE SOUTH WEST AFRICA ITSELF.
1969: ACTION AGAINST SECURITY POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
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DEATH IN DETENTION OF MR JAMES LENKOE.

1969-70: TRIAL OF MRS WINNIE MANDELA AND 21 OTHERS UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT.

1971: ACTION BY MR ROBERT SOBUKWE, LEADER OF THE PANAFRICAN CONGRESS, AGAINST THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

1971: TRIAL OF THE REV G A FRENCH-BEYTAGH UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT.

1971: TRIAL OF 13 MEMBERS OF THE UNITY MOVEMENTS UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT.

1972: TRIAL OF 13 WORKERS IN WINDHOEK IN CONNECTION WITH A STRIKE BY OVAMBO WORKERS.

1972: TRIAL OF NINE OWAMBO MEN ON VARIOUS CHARGES INCLUDING MURDER, AFTER THE LABOUR CONTRACT STRIKE.

1972: TRIAL OF STUDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH A DEMONSTRATION.. THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE ACTION BY THE REV COLIN WINTER, BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF DAMARALAND, AND TWO OTHERS AGAINST THEIR EXPULSION FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO FUNDED ACTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA OR SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS IN THE US ITSELF.

IN 1972, ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, ONE HUNDRED BLACK MEN, INC, THE AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES AND OTHERS, IT SOUGHT TO ENJOIN THE NEW YORK TIMES FROM PUBLISHING ADVERTISEMENTS FOR POSITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE THESE POSITIONS, UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN LAW, WERE UNAVAILABLE TO BLACK AMERICANS.

PROHIBIT.

IT ALSO, ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS, THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND OTHERS, SOUGHT AN INJUNCTION TO PREVENT THE AMERICAN CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD GRANTING SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS FACILITIES FOR A NEW ROUTE PERMIT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE US.

IN 1975 THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE LODGED AN ACTION IN THE US COURTS ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED MINeworkERS OF AMERICA, IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN COAL INTO THE US.

THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE ALSO FREQUENTLY SENDS OBSERVERS TO TRI-
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ALS IN SOUTH AFRICA, PLUS EXPERT WITNESSES TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENCE.

THE VAST AMERICAN DEFENCE FUNDING MEANS THAT THE TRIALS CAN COVER EXTENSIVE PERIODS AND EARN EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY. ONE RECENT POLITICAL TRIAL IS BELIEVED TO HAVE COST A RECORD R500 000, ALMOST ALL OF IT CARRIED BY AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS, NOTABLY THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE AND THE AFRICA-AMERICAN INSTITUTE, ANOTHER CIA CONDUIT.

LAWYERS ALSO POINT OUT THAT IF PEOPLE KNOW THERE ARE LARGE SUMS AVAILABLE FOR THEIR DEFENCE, THIS MAKES THEM MORE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS WHICH COULD LEAD THEM INTO TROUBLE. IT IS INTERESTING THAT WHILE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS PRO DEO DEFENCE IN EVEN THE WORST TERRORIST TRIAL, THIS

TODAY IS INVARIABLY REFUSED BY THE ACCUSED. THE IRONY IS THAT
INSTEAD OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TAXPAYER PAYING THESE DEFENCE COSTS,
IT IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO DO SO.
THE SERIES CONTINUES ON MONDAY UNQUOTE. KIRBY

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